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Putting 2 year old funding into practice and ensuring quality for funded two year olds in Doncaster

Putting theory into practice

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Background

- Delivering 2 year old funding in Doncaster since 2006
  - Pathfinder Local Authority – address low take up of Free Entitlement
  - 6 Health Visitor Areas with one Project Manager
  - Target areas identified using IDACI data

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2 Year Old Funding through Children's Centres

- September 2011 rolled out and developed through all 21 Children's Centre areas
  - 2 year old funding lead in each Children's Centre
  - Identify eligible families, liaise with Health Visitors and Social Care to prioritise places each term
  - Budget calculated using Health data and percentage of families eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in each Children's Centre area
  - Areas with higher percentage of FSM families receive higher proportion of budget
- Criteria
  - Primary: Income (Free School Meal criteria)
  - Secondary: Family Circumstances (used to prioritise places)

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…other 2 year old funding available in Doncaster

- Looked After Children
  - implemented January 2012
  - identified through Social Care Teams

- Children with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
  - identified and referred through Portage Service

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Start of our journey…

- Dec 2011 steering group to plan for meeting the needs of the funded 2 year olds in the Children's Centres.
- Developed system to support identified 2 year olds to make the transition from the Children's Centre to the setting
- Both the settings and Children's Centres play an equal role in supporting the children and the families

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Passport to Nursery

- Support children's learning and development focusing on the three prime areas of learning
- Completed by the parents and centre staff prior to accessing their place at a setting
- Used to support the child and their family to make the transition into setting
- Child's key person use the information to support child to settle at the setting

Doncaster Children's Centres

All about me

My name is

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Partnership working…

At the centre….

- 4 x 1.5 hour sessions
- 1 PSED
- 1 CLL
- 1 PHYSICAL
- 1 'Meet the room senior'

- The 'All About Me' 'passport' travelled with the child to the setting

At the setting….

- Room seniors were required to access focussed training on the 3 prime areas

- Baseline children's learning on entry to the setting (prior to full funding being released)

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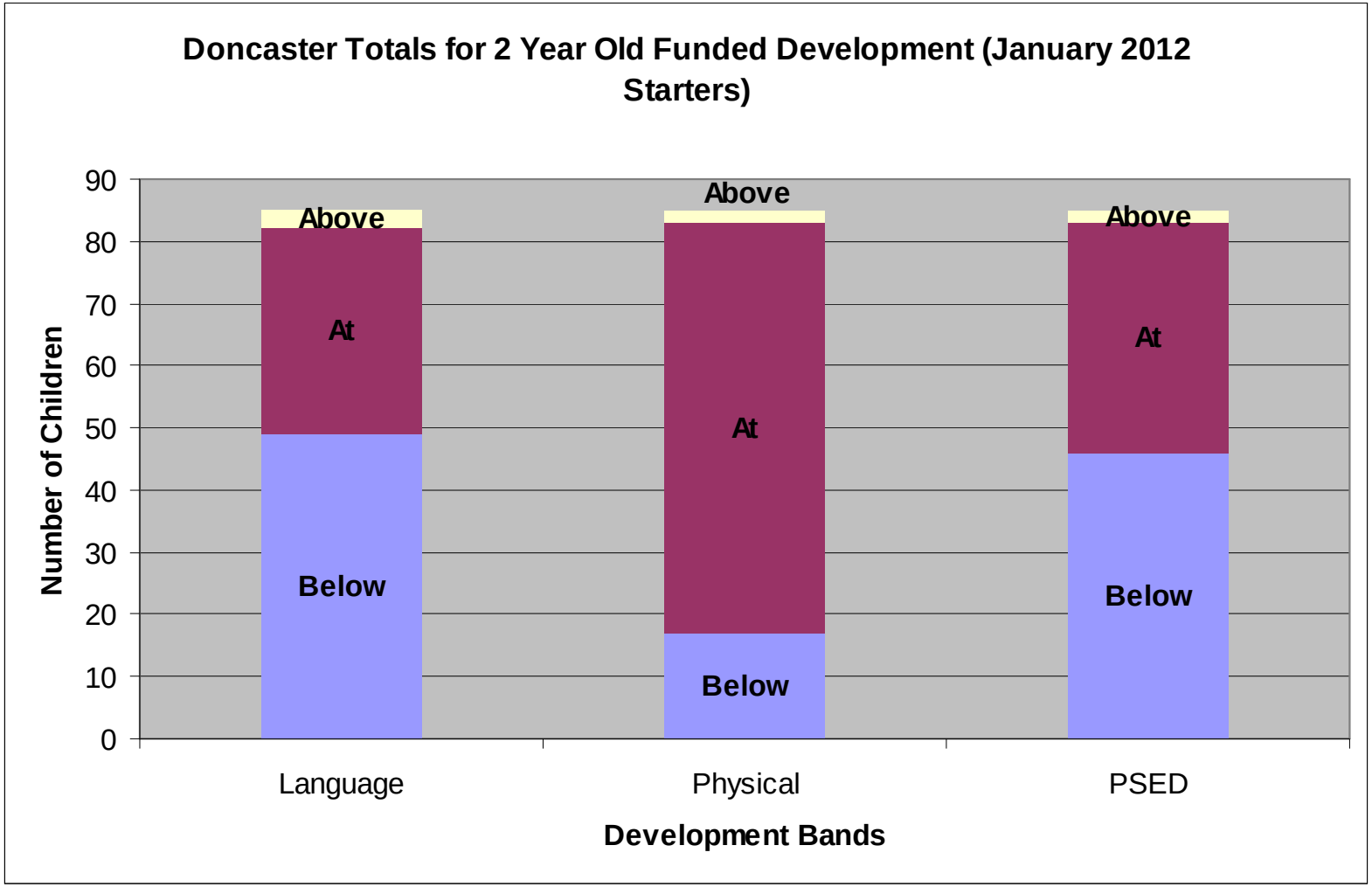
CHART



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Journey so far…

- Parents registered or started to attend sessions at the centre
- Communication links improved between parents and staff at the setting/centre
- Children settled quickly into the nursery
- Practitioners felt more confident supporting the child and family more effectively.

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Next Steps in our journey…

- We are collating the current term's data, and will be able to demonstrate children's progress.
- We are embedding the good practice in the Children's Centres 'All About Me' sessions, and developing the 'passport' as a tool for the key person in the setting to continue to support parents/carers.
- We are developing training to support the practitioners who work directly with the children and their parents/carers in the settings.
- We are implementing moderation of judgements to ensure the progress recorded is accurate

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Contact details

Linda Randle-Bissell
2,3 and 4 Year Old Funding Officer
linda.randle-bissell@doncaster.gov.uk

Joanne Lomas
Children's Centre Consultant Teacher
joanne.lomas@doncaster.gov.uk

Telephone: 01302 862111